

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our name;

We believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **IMPROVED FLUID RETAINING APPARATUS WITH BALL VALVE**, the specification of which is attached hereto;

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above;

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a);

We do not know and do not believe that the invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before our invention thereof;

We do not know and do not believe that the invention was ever patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention thereof for more than one year prior to this application;

We do not know and do not believe that the invention was in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application;

We acknowledge the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application; and

As to applications for patents or inventor's certificate on the invention filed in any country foreign to the United States of America, prior to this application by us or our legal representatives or assigns, no such applications have been filed.

As the named inventors we hereby appoint G. Brian Pingel, Reg. No. 26,216, and Camille L. Urban, Reg. No. 46,948 Pingel & Templer, P.C., 3737 Woodland Avenue, Suite 437, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266, Telephone 515-225-3737, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of joint or first inventor: Christopher E. Schafer

Inventor's signature: Christopher E. Schafer Oct. 28, 2003
Date

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Full name of joint or second inventor: Rodney M. Ramsey

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